

Message Text

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SUBJ: VON KARMAN INSTITUTE

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1. AS RECENTLY AS JULY (REFTEL), THE US WAS URGED BY OTHER NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES TO RECONSIDER ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNDING OF THE VON KARMAN INSTITUTE (VKI). IN A MEETING WITH DR. JOHN F. WENDT OF THE VKI, WE LEARNED THAT THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE FOR R&D IS INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE JOINT FUNDING OF THE INSTITUTE AS OF OCT 1, 1977 AND AT THE SAME LEVEL AS OTHER MAJOR ALLIES (FRANCE, FRG, UK). (DR. WENDT HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHERE HE DISCUSSED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING PROSPECTS WITH VARIOUS US AGENCIES.)

2. SINCE THE U.S. WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FOUNDING AND FUNDING THE VKI, ITS 1971 DECISION TO CEASE FURTHER FUNDING WAS VIEWED WITH CONSIDERABLE REGRET. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE US WITHDRAWAL WAS DUE NOT TO DISPLEASURE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE QUALITY OF THE VKI PROGRAM, BUT TO THE INTERPRETATION OF LEGISLATION THEN IN EFFECT. MOREOVER, THE INSTITUTE HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION THANKS TO ITS ADVANCED AERODYNAMICS RESEARCH AND TRAINING, AND ITS

SOPHISTICATED TECHNICAL FACILITIES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO FUNDING THE VKI PROGRAM, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT (A) THE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM AND THE US ON 15 DECEMBER 1956 AND (B) ALL NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES PROVIDED SUPPORT AS OF THE 1959-60 ACADEMIC YEAR. ALTHOUGH THE US AND DENMARK WITHDREW SUPPORT IN 1971, ALL OTHER NATO

COUNTRIES HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE VKI.

4. IN SPITE OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE JOINT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, THE INSTITUTE HAS CONTINUED TO ACCEPT U.S. STUDENTS WITHOUT CHARGING THEM FULL TUITION. IF THE U.S. SHOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE ONCE AGAIN IN THE FUNDING, THE U.S. STUDENTS WOULD PAY NO TUITION.

5. IN JULY, WHEN THE US AND DENMARK WERE INVITED TO REJOIN THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, THE DANISH DELEGATION TOLD A USDEL OFFICER THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WISHED TO KNOW THE U.S. DECISION BEFORE THEY TOOK A POSITION. THUS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IF THE U.S. REJOINS THE FUNDING, DENMARK WILL DO LIKEWISE. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUED LACK OF US SUPPORT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FUNDING OF THE VKI.

6. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT US AUTHORITIES HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO SECURING US SUPPORT FOR THE VKI OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS MATTER WAS CONSIDERED AT A DEC 1975 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, (FCST) BASED ON A SEPT 16, 1975 MEMORANDUM FROM FCST CHAIRMAN STEVER, PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR AND CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY. IT IS LIKELY THAT USAF POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE VKI FUNDING IS BASED, IN PART, ON THIS FCST INITIATIVE. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO STRONGLY ENDORSED US SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN VKI THROUGH THE STATEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER (OES) AT THE DEC 1975 FCST MEETING.

7. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF THE VKI'S EXCELLENT WORK, THE

HISTORY OF US PARTICIPATION IN IT, THE ADVANTAGES THAT WILL ACCURE TO US STUDENTS ATTENDING THE INSTITUTE, AND THE KIKELY SALUTARY EFFECT RENEWED US PARTICIPATION WILL HAVE ON OUR NATO ALLIES, THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE US REJOIN THE NATIONS SUPPORTING THE VON KARMAN INSTITUTE. SINCE THE NEXT MEEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE VKI WILL MEET NO

LATER THAN MID-OCTOBER UNDER NATO AUSPICES, IT WOULD BE
MOST USEFUL TO RECEIVE POSITIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE US
INTENTION TO SHARE IN VKI FUTURE FUNDING BY COB
OCTOBER 9, 1976 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.STREATOR

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